(c) the details of corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard while safeguarding the thousands of workers' livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (c) The decision to close mines is taken by the coal companies on parameters such as exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of coal mines, safety considerations, technical feasibility etc. In ECL, 26 coal mines have been identified for suspension of operations on the ground of economic unviability. On a reference under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA), ECL has been declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Since ECL is currently under the purview of the BIFR as a sick company, closing of the mines will also depend on the revival measures that may be finalised by BIFR for rehabilitation.

Grading and pricing of coal

796. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any policy for grading and pricing of coal on the basis of Gross Calorific Value as opposed to the concept of Useful Heat Value; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal had constituted a Committee for considering formulation of the gradation system of coal based on Gross Calorific Value (GCV) and creating equivalency chart between Gross Calorific Value and Useful Heat Value (UHV). CFRI, Dhanbad conducted the exercise so assigned to them and developed such equivalency charts. The above Committee suggested to use a matrix system for grading of coals considering experimentally determined ash and GCV values on 'as received basis'. The recommendations of the Committee were considered by the Ministry of Coal in July, 2003 when it was decided that 'to start with, one mine preferably in NCL may be selected for adoption of GCV on trial basis. The mine will be jointly selected by CIL and NTPC. In such a selected mine, for six months, both GCV and UHV will be compared, and further necessary action will be taken thereafter.'

Accordingly, Amlohri opencast mine of Northern Coalfields Limited has been selected for the purpose.

The coal gradation is exercised by notification of the same by the Government and coal prices are declared by CIL as per gradation. Presently the coal gradation and pricing are based on UHV. Pricing on the basis of GCV will be possible only after gradation of coal is made on the basis of GCV.

Purchase and import of machinery by CIL

797. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the machinery purchased and imported by Coal India Ltd. during last three years;

(b) out of this, the purchase made by Western Coalfields Ltd.;

(c) whether the machinery purchased has been put in use or still lying idle in the godowns;

(d) the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not using the purchased machinery; and

(e) the money spent on the purchase of these machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of machinery purchased and imported by Coal India Limited for use in its subsidiary companies including Western Coalfields Limited during last three years are given in the Statement enclosed (*See* below).

Out of above total purchases only 460 HP Wheel Dozer pertained to the category of imported purchase.

(c) None of the above machinery purchased is lying idle in the godowns.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply given to parts (c) and (d) above.